
Field Allocation Review Committee
July 18, 2012

The Field Allocation Review Committee, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Parks and Recreation Office Conference Room at 201 W. Gray Building C on the 18th day of July, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting 201 West Gray Street, 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth,
and Perry

City Officials

Present: Jeff Hill, Recreation Superintendent

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Brockhaus made the motion and Commissioner Perry seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth,
and Perry

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

OPENING PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF NORMAN YOUTH
SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Steve Gillis, representative for the Norman Youth Soccer Association stated he has represented the association for about 20 years. The last 15-16 years he has been in charge of the oversight and care of the complex. He is a volunteer. The association is in its 23-24th year of providing all of the maintenance at the associations cost. In the last 23 years of the agreement, they have spent in maintenance and improvements, 1.8 million dollars to keep the complex up. He stated the association has a great working relationship with the City of Norman. The association has two paid positions; everyone else is a volunteer. Mr. Gillis provided a highlight summary of the program. This past year they opened a new office building at the complex. The association provided \$45,000 in scholarships. NYSA hosts seven tournaments each year. The NCVB estimates the soccer tournaments this past year had a 3.1 million dollar impact. Soccer has a growing program and has a need to expand.

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Norman Soccer has been involved in the use of fields 1, 2, and 3 over the past 10 years utilizing a sub-let agreement with the Optimist. This past year soccer paid \$7,800 to maintain the playing surface on all 4 fields. The City of Norman recently paid the cost to sprig worn areas in the fields. Soccer utilizes the fields just about year round. Mr. Gillis stated this is a win-win situation for Norman Football Academy since football had the use of two fields this year where in the past they only had the use of one field and in reality they have all four. The fields are in excellent shape.

ITEM 4, being:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Chairman Brigham asked how much play can be sustained on the fields. Mr. Gillis said it was a difficult question to answer because it depends on the weather. If you can get the fields on a good maintenance program and keep people off of them in inclement weather, the turf will carry through the winter season. With proper management and oversight they can take a lot of wear.

Chairman Brigham asked if there were any cons with the contract they just went through. Mr. Gillis said they had a little feedback from the Optimist as it was a change for them, but it worked pretty well. They had their own parking, their own restrooms and lighting. There might have been a hurt feeling or two about why they were moving but he had an opportunity to explain it to them and they realized it made sense and with a little notification, all parties could use the fields. Mr. Gillis stated he expressed to both parties that for special needs, even with a weeks notice, they would be willing to take their goals off of the fields and felt it was a win-win for all organizations. He spoke that it was difficult dealing with Mr. Williams and they did not have good dialogue. They would want a good relationship with other organizations to be in a multi-year agreement. He thinks there is room for all organizations out there. He was concerned that there might be a conflict at the park sometime regarding use of the fields.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked if football had any occasion to use all four fields. Mr. Gillis replied no, that football pretty much stayed off of field 4 and used field three because it was in better shape.

Commissioner Goth asked if any of the three organizations utilized the portion of the contract to use the other's fields. Mr. Gillis said their contract was for fields 1 and 2 and they have sporadically used field 3 throughout the year for practice, but they never used field 4. They wanted use all four fields but they did not push over into it, there was too much friction.

Commissioner Brigham stated there is obvious tension and that most of it appears to be lack of communication. Can soccer continue to try to work, or are you done? Mr. Gillis replied that he and Mickey had always had good dialogue. But the communications broke down in early April and he didn't know why. He said soccer made every effort to cooperate with any of football needs. He stated Mr. Williams could not see that he had access to all four fields.

Commissioner Brigham asked what he felt the enrollment for soccer would be in the upcoming season. Mr. Gillis said they estimate another 200 player increase in the recreational league.

Commissioner Chappel asked if the current agreement for fields 1 and 2 would allow them to handle the increase in numbers. Mr. Gillis stated it would be spread out among all of their fields.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked if they played games on fields 1 and 2 or had practices, Mr. Gillis replied both.

Commissioner Brigham asked if any signage would help. Mr. Gillis stated they do have signage on their other fields explaining who upkeeps and maintains the fields.

Mr. Gillis said that he and soccer want to be a good neighbor. He feels the agreement now is a good agreement.

Commissioner Brockhaus asked Mr. Hill if football had a spring league. Mr. Hill replied yes they played this spring on Sunday afternoons, during the fall they played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and maybe played on weekends if they had a make-up game.

Chairman Brigham asked if soccer was handed the same agreement again would they sign it. Mr. Gillis stated it is a matter of bang for the buck. The investment that soccer has put into the irrigation will take multiple years to get back, so it has to be a multi year agreement. The key thing for soccer is when football is not there in the late fall, and the competitive soccer season runs until almost December 15th, it is a must for soccer to be able to use fields 3 and 4 at that time. While the lease gives us the opportunity to do so, soccer has been hesitant to use fields 3 and 4. It is soccer's long term intent to improve the turf to use the fields in late fall and for tournaments. Mr. Gillis said soccer has decided that, given the friction, it was in their best interest to stay off of fields 3 and 4 at this time. Could we use them? Yes.

Commissioner Goth stated with the current contract they could utilize all of the fields. Mr. Gillis said yes.

Chairman Brigham asked if Mr. Gillis had any thoughts about improving the situation. Mr. Gillis replied if another Academy Football representative would be involved it would be a lot easier. Soccer wants to be a good neighbor and Mr. Williams does not view it that way. He said he thinks Mr. Williams views soccer as the 800 lb. gorilla that is going to push him out and that is not the way it is.

Commissioner Brockhaus stated that last year football used field 3 and asked if they used field 4 at all. Mr. Gillis thought that field 4 did not have markings on it very often. Mr. Brockhaus asked about the condition of field 4 and Mr. Gillis replied it is now in the best shape he has ever seen since he has been out there.

ITEM 5, being:

CLOSING REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) OF NORMAN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Mr. Gillis said he would like the opportunity to take the committee out to the fields and show them around.

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Mr. Gillis said he would like to see this work, but the concern is we cannot continue to go down the path of putting the association's funds into this on a long term basis to make it better for everybody and then not be able to use it.

Commissioner Brigham asked if a 3 year agreement would be sufficient or is soccer looking for a 5 year agreement. Mr. Gillis replied they would rather have 5 which would coincide with their current lease.

Mr. Gillis said the soccer association is involved in a couple of projects. They are involved in a matching fund program with the City of Norman to upgrade the irrigation system at Griffin where they pay half and the City pays half. They would eventually like to work on fields 1,2, 3, and 4 to improve the irrigation.

The committee thanked Mr. Gillis for his time, service and for the packet that was put together for the meeting.

ITEM 6, being:

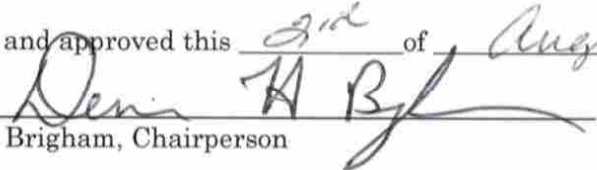
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Brockhaus made the motion and Commissioner Goth seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus, Chappel, Goth, and Perry

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 21st of August 2012


Dennis Brigham, Chairperson